

Days of sport and nights of wine

When I was elected to the position of Alternative Representative for Alice Springs, amongst FIERCE competition (NOT), there was only one aspect of the position that gave me cause for some concern - writing this article!

What could I write that was intelligent, witty and interesting? In the end I gave up on that idea, particularly the intelligent part, and decided that this time around I'll just concentrate on what lawyers like to talk about. Anti-lawyers would of course say "themselves" but I know that isn't true.

Mind you, I'm sure that on occasion we have all been guilty of recounting *ad nauseum* the intricacies of THAT case, the one where for a time we were bloody amazing.

In general though, what do we talk about over a beer at The Cavanagh or the Firkin Hound? The weather? Sport? Nights of drinking excesses? Who is doing what to whom? The Law?

So in the hopes this will interest you...

The Weather

Having been born and bred in Darwin, I am allowed to say that living in Darwin at this time of year truly tests your devotion to the Top End. As a kid I remember feeling cold in the dry season (it was probably a shivering 20°C), but over the years the dry seemed to grow shorter, the wet longer.

Those glorious blue sky days all too quickly give way to the clamminess of the 'build up'. By November the grins are slipping along with the makeup and we enter the troppo season. It's true, people definitely grow stranger around November.

Alice Springs is also stinking hot at this time of year. My mother was here during one of those 40^o+ days, when the wind burns your eyeballs. She swears it was so hot the birds were falling out of the trees. (Yes, Mum, one bird, and it was electrocuted actually...)

I suppose it is a good thing that for a couple of months Territory weather leaves a bit to be desired, otherwise there would be a mass migration from the Southern states!

Sports:

Speaking of hot, the champion athletes of the over 30's converged upon Alice last week, as they do every two years, for the Masters' Games, known officially also as the Friendly Games. The Games are held in October, and without a doubt there is always a case or two of sunstroke. I believe also, there are often cases of something else (broken hearts, STD's) as the Games are also notorious for a bit of hanky panky. In all seriousness, the official bags of the Games carried by the Games participants were, this year, chockas with condoms, because two years ago, the town sold out!! (The Masters - the very Friendly Games!)

I'll hand over to Tony Whitelum soon, who played cricket in the Masters, and I'm sure behaved himself admirably.

Nights of Drinking Excesses:

I did hear of one, the Medico Legal Dinner. I couldn't go as I had a night of drinking excess planned elsewhere (a hen's night).

However, I did hear from John Stirk that he was still at the Casino in the wee hours of the next morning battling with blackjack. I also saw a usually retiring member of our profession leaving (or should I say lurching out of) a local drinking hole at some ungodly hour. No names, but in his honour (no, that is not a clue), here's a little poem.

SOTALLY TOBER

*Starkle starkle little twink
who the hell you are I think
I'm not under what you call
the alcofluence of incohol
I'm just a little slort of sheep
I'm not drunk like tinkle peep
I don't know who is me yet
but the drunker I stand here
the longer I get
Just give me one more drink
to fill me cup
'cuz I got all day sober to
Sunday up*



Nardine Collier, LSNT alternative representative for Alice Springs

Who is Doing What to Whom:

Who knows, and if I did I wouldn't tell you! But perhaps this is an appropriate time to mention some recent births.

Congratulations to David Bamber (CAALAS), and Janet Taylor (formerly of NTLAC & NAALAS, now CAWLS) on the birth of Ella Jane Bamber, born 22 August 2002. She is beautiful (looks like her mum).

Congratulations also to Anthony Hopkins (NTLAC) and Kelli Cole (formerly CAALAS), on the birth of Jye Cole Hopkins, born 25 July 2002. Jye recently attended a legal function and was one of the better behaved.

The function in question was the retirement party for Helena Rooney, who had been a Court Officer in Alice Springs for about twenty-three years. She has seen some things!

The Law:

On a serious note, one of Mr Ward SM's recent decisions has created some controversy. In the matter of Kevin Webb, Mr Ward SM granted bail to the Defendant who had been charged with murder and aggravated assault, so that he could return to his homelands to receive traditional punishment. Had he not been subject to 'payback' it would have been dealt out to members of his family.

In summary:

This being the last Balance for 2002, Tony and I wish you all the best for the Festive Season.

Don't go too Troppo!!